Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

in response to receiving call signaling data from an originating Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) network endpoint requesting to initiate a VoIP call, selecting a call signaling and media proxy in a VoIP network through which to route media packets associated with the VoIP call;

performing Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) routing in the VoIP network, wherein the routing includes forcing the media packets associated with the VoIP call through one or more managed network elements of a specific Internet Protocol (IP) address with the selected call signaling and media proxy.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1 further comprising ~~terminating~~ ending the VoIP call after a media stream from a network element is complete and after a media stream from the originating VoIP endpoint is complete.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the media packets comply with RTP.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 further comprising receiving the call signaling information from the originating VoIP network endpoint.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 4 wherein forcing further comprises relaying the call signaling information through the call signaling and media proxy to a destination VoIP network element.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein forcing further comprises directing the originating VoIP network endpoint to use the selected call signaling and media proxy.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 6 wherein forcing further comprises streaming the packets to the call signaling and media proxy in a selected media proxy server.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 7 wherein forcing further comprises replacing an Internet Protocol address of the selected call signaling and media proxy with an address of a next hop in the network.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein replacing comprises using Network Address Translation (NAT).

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 8 wherein the next hop comprises a terminating VoIP network endpoint.

11. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the selected call signaling and media proxy includes a list of static virtual Internet Protocol addresses that represent media network endpoints, gateways and other media proxies.

12. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1 wherein the selected call signaling and media proxy includes a list of dynamic virtual IP addresses that represent media network endpoints, gateways and other media proxies.

13. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein Network Address Translation (NAT) hides the terminating VoIP network endpoint from a call originator.

14. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein Network Address Translation (NAT) hides an originating VoIP network endpoint address from a terminating VoIP network endpoint address.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5 wherein selecting a call signaling and media proxy comprises selecting a call signaling and media proxy server from a plurality of call signaling and media proxy servers that provide a predetermined quality of service.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15 wherein selecting comprises testing a quality of a network connection from the originating VoIP network endpoint point of presence (POP) to each of the call signaling and media proxy servers.

17. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein testing comprises using a series of pings to determine a closest call signaling and media proxy server.

18. (Original) The method of claim 16 wherein testing comprises using trace routes to determine a closest call signaling and media proxy server.

19. (Previously Presented) A method comprising:

receiving call signaling information from an originating Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) endpoint, wherein the call signaling information is associated with a request to initiate a VoIP call;

selecting a call signaling and RTP media proxy through which to route media associated with the VoIP call;

relaying the call signaling information to a destination VoIP endpoint;

directing the originating VoIP endpoint to use the selected call signaling and RTP media proxy; and

receiving a stream of media to the selected call signaling and RTP media proxy from the originating VoIP endpoint.

20. (Original) The method of claim 19 wherein directing comprises:

determining an address of the destination VoIP endpoint; and

obtaining virtual addresses from the RTP media proxy.

21. (Original) The method of claim 20 wherein the virtual addresses represent media endpoints, gateways, PC clients, application servers and other media proxies.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling RTP routing in a VoIP network comprising:

sending call signaling information from an originating VoIP endpoint to a call signaling and media proxy to initiate a VoIP call, wherein the call signaling and media proxy is selected from a plurality of call signaling ~~an~~ and media proxies in the VoIP network;

relaying the call signaling information from the call signaling and media proxy to a destination VoIP endpoint;

receiving instructions to send media associated with the VoIP call from the originating VoIP endpoint to the call signaling and media proxy; and

sending a stream of media from the originating VoIP endpoint to the call signaling and media proxy.

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the call signaling and media proxy comprises virtual IP addresses of media endpoints, media gateways and other call signaling and media proxies.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the call signaling and media proxy comprises dynamic IP addresses of media endpoints, media gateways and other call signaling and media proxies.

25. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 wherein the call signaling and media proxy comprises static IP addresses of media endpoints, media gateways and other call signaling and media proxies.

26. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22 further comprising replacing an IP address of the call signaling media proxy with an IP address of a next hop endpoint.

27. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 26 wherein replaying comprises network address translation (NAT).

28-29. (Canceled)